

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE
COLEOPTERA OF AUSTRALIA.

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No. III.—ON THE GENUS *Nascio* (Fam. Buprestidæ).

In a recent number of the 'Notes from the Leyden Museum' (vol. VIII., p. 121), Mr. J. R. H. Neervoort van de Poll, has turned his attention to the Buprestid genus *Nascio*, and has published a synopsis of the species including three new forms. Of these latter I have succeeded in identifying the *Nascio simillima* which I have seen from the Endeavour River, Cloncurry and Port Denison, Queensland. *N. carissima* (Waterhouse, Aid. I., pl. 95), occurs in the vicinity of Sydney, where I have taken it in the flowers of *Angophora*, and there is a specimen from Tasmania in the Macleay Museum. All the other recorded species of the genus are known to me, and I now have the satisfaction of adding three more to the list.

NASCIO CHYDÆA, sp. n.

Elongate, moderately broad and convex, very dark coppery bronze, somewhat opaque; head and prothorax coarsely and closely punctured; each elytron with two broad yellow fasciæ and the apex provided with inconspicuous spines.

Head densely punctured, with a distinct median line, which is slightly impressed in the middle. Prothorax moderately convex, slightly narrower in front than behind, as strongly and closely punctured as the head, with two foveolate impressions on the disc,

one on each side of the middle, and a third much smaller one in the middle at the base; the anterior margin slightly produced in the middle; the sides somewhat narrowed in front, slightly constricted near the posterior angles which are acute and projecting; the basal margin nearly straight. Scutellum small, slightly concave. Elytra broader than the prothorax at the base, strongly and closely punctate-striate, the striæ impressed at the base, the interstices moderately broad and strongly punctured, with two yellow fasciæ one before the other considerably behind the middle extending from the sides to just before the suture; these fasciæ are rather broad at the sides, and gradually decrease in width as they approach the suture. Underside bronzy, somewhat shining; sterna rather closely and strongly punctured; abdominal segments less strongly punctured. Legs distinctly punctured. Length, 11-13 mm.

Rope's Creek, New South Wales; Salt River, West Australia.

Three specimens of what I take to be the female of the insect described above have a much broader and more convex prothorax without the two discal impressions, the median line on the head very indistinct, and the apex of the elytra rounded and not provided with spines.

A very distinct species which is, perhaps, best placed between *Nascio simillima* and *N. xanthura*.

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NASCIO MUNDA, sp. n.

Elongate, metallic green, shining, with purplish reflections, moderately narrowed behind; the head and prothorax rather dull coppery, the latter purplish in the middle; the underside bright coppery; the apex of the elytra provided with inconspicuous spines.

Head strongly and closely punctured, coppery in front, purplish between the eyes at the base. Prothorax slightly convex, narrowed in front, strongly and closely punctured, with a small foveolate impression in the middle at the base; the anterior margin

very slightly produced in the middle ; the sides slightly constricted before the posterior angles which are acute and projecting ; the posterior margin bisinuate. Scutellum transverse, rather deeply impressed in the middle. Elytra rather strongly and closely punctate-striate, the interstices distinctly punctured, the ridges moderately elevated, the sides with the apical half finely serrate. Underside bright coppery, very sparingly pubescent ; the prosternum rather strongly, irregularly and very closely punctured ; the meso- and metasternum less strongly and closely punctured ; abdominal segments much less strongly and closely punctured. Legs coppery green. Length, 8 mm.

Cairns, North Queensland (Macleay Museum).

This species belongs to section b.β. of van de Poll's synopsis, but differs from its allies in the absence of yellow spots on the elytra. From *Nascio viridis* it differs not only in this particular, but also in having the prothorax, which is narrowed in front, proportionately shorter and the interstices between the elytral striæ and the sides more regularly punctured.

NASCIO MULTESIMA, sp. n.

Elongate, metallic green, shining, moderately strongly narrowed behind ; the head and prothorax rather dull coppery, the underside bright coppery ; the apex of the elytra provided with inconspicuous spines.

Head strongly and very closely punctured, coppery. Prothorax slightly convex, about as broad in front as behind, strongly and very closely punctured, with a small foveolate impression in the middle at the base ; the anterior margin very slightly produced in the middle ; the sides straight ; posterior angles acute and projecting. Scutellum transverse, slightly concave and finely punctured. Elytra moderately strongly punctate-striate, the interstices finely punctured, the ridges moderately elevated, the sides with the apical third finely serrate. Underside bright coppery, very finely

and not very closely pubescent ; the prosternum rather strongly and closely punctured ; the mesosternum, metasternum, and abdominal segments much less strongly punctured. Length, 6 mm.

Wide Bay, Queensland.

This species resembles *Nascio munda* in having no yellow spots on the elytra, but may be separated by its more strongly punctured head, by its much less strongly punctate-striate elytra, and by its more parallel-sided prothorax ; the interstices between the elytral striæ and the sides are very irregularly punctured, in which respect it approaches *N. viridis*.